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SALT LAKE CITY, JAN. 25, 1909.

## THE PROHIBITION BILL.

The prohibition bill introduced in the House by Representative Joseph H. Cannon makes it unlawful in this state to sell, barter, give away or otherwise furnish any alcoholic liquors; or to solicit the sale or purchase of such liquor, either in person or by circular, letter, card, price list, or otherwise. The term "alcoholic liquor," as used in the bill, includes all spirituous, vinous, fermented, or malt liquors, or any imitation thereof or substitute therefor, which contains as much as one per cent of alcohol. It also makes it unlawful to use any building, room, or place for the purpose of violating the law, and the owner can be prosecuted and punished, as well as the manufacturer and vendor of the prohibited beverage.

The bill represents one of the most important issues before the people, and the representatives of the people must give it the most conscientious and careful attention. There is no doubt that the majority of the people of Utah, both Church members and others, now demand some such measure. And the legislators, who have met to carry out the mandates of the people, will give due weight to that fact. They will not be swayed by undue influences, no matter of what nature, if they listen to the voice of their constituency.

The other side presents its objections to prohibition, but when they are weighed they are found wanting.

There is the liberty argument. The apologists for the saloons tell us that we have no right to curtail the liberty of citizens to sell liquor, nor their liberty to drink. This is no argument at all. We do curtail the liberty of citizens to deal in poisons—to establish opium dens, for instance—and to otherwise injure their fellow-citizens. We can, with equal fairness, curtail the liberty of selling liquor in a saloon. If it can be proved that the saloon is a snare, destructive of both body and soul, a breeding place of poverty, crime, and misery. And as to that, there is no doubt. Liberty does not include the right to injure our fellow-men, body and soul, by our business. And as for the liberty to drink, the fact is that the drunkard is the most abject slave of all. He only is free who can, by free will and choice, abstain from everything that injures. The Apostle Paul was free, and yet he declared that if his partaking of meat was offensive to his brother he would abstain from it forever. That is freedom. Or intoxicating drinks it can be said truly that they are "offensive." They are a stumbling block to thousands.

Another objection is that the closing of the saloons would materially affect the revenues. This is not sustained by experience. The saloons are too expensive every way. As an illustration the Secretary of the Kokomo, Ind., Steel and Iron company in November, 1906, published a statement to the effect that the saloons in the factory district cost the company \$75,000 a year. "Let us have a law," he added, "prohibiting under the severest penalties a saloon in the factory districts." Kokomo had at that time 36 saloons that paid about \$7,500 into the treasury annually, but they damaged the manufacturing interests of the city to the tune of \$75,000. What damage the over one hundred saloons are doing to Salt Lake City can be calculated according to this scale. Where the saloons are closed, more business goes to grocery and dry goods stores; more homes are bought or built; children are better dressed and better fed, and consequently happier; there is less crime, less pauperism. The revenue argument is therefore all the other way.

Then, again, we are told that prohibition does not prohibit. It closes the saloons, if the law is honestly administered, even if it does not prevent drunkards from obtaining liquor surreptitiously, and even that is a gain. If drunkenness is driven out from our main streets and hunted as a crime in every hole where it takes refuge, it is no longer the menace it is now to our boys, not to say anything about the men. Let it be an outlaw in society, and much of its harmfulness is removed.

But it does prohibit. In San Francisco, every saloon was closed after the earthquake. It was possible to do it, and it was done. The result was that the criminal element left and crime was reduced as much as 50 per cent. Let us try the experiment here.

## BUST-PROOF WHEAT.

How science co-operates with the efforts of men on the farm is well illustrated in the accounts that have lately come from England concerning the production of bust-proof wheat.

Prof. Biffin of Cambridge University, England, has evolved a variety of wheat that is claimed to be free from rust. If wheat immune from this prevalent fungus has really been bred up, the discovery is one of the most valuable aids to agriculture, especially in the milder climates. In nearly all countries the most serious enemy of the wheat farmer is rust. Early in their growth the plants are attacked by a parasite fungus whose presence is rendered conspicuous by an abundant outbreak of reddish yellow pustules all over the foliage. In certain

seasons and with certain varieties the outbreak may be so severe as to very greatly diminish the yield of grain. In the bad rust year of 1891 the loss due to this cause in Prussia alone was calculated at over \$100,000,000, while a well known authority estimates that the average loss from rust to the wheat crops of the world would not be covered by \$500,000,000. No prophylactic against the disease has been discovered, and it is recognized that the only way to avoid it is to make use of varieties which are naturally immune. Unfortunately the few such varieties that exist are in other respects poor and unprofitable to grow.

Rust is not usually so severe, except in very wet seasons, in the plateau region as it is in many other parts of the world. But the development of grains and fruits that may be able to withstand many of the diseases of insects that now afflict them, gives the hope now of finding out certain less expensive and uncertain methods of combating these injuries than by fighting them after they have once attacked the plants. An ounce of prevention in these cases would be worth a pound of cure.

## READ BEFORE SIGNING.

A report came to the "News" over the telephone Saturday evening, stating that two men were canvassing houses on the West side, presenting a petition against prohibition and obtaining signatures under the pretense that it was a petition for prohibition.

If the report is true, it shows how utterly unscrupulous the saloon interests are in the pursuit of their aims and purposes. Deception and falsehood are as natural to them as law-breaking or a still grosser character.

And to think that that element dares to lay hold of city governments and party organizations, to control them and away them in whatever direction that seems best to them! It is one of the great crimes of the dram shops that are stained with moral filth, that they dare to dictate in the management of public affairs. It is that unspeakable impudence the American people are determined to rebuke. The moral part proposes to be no longer under the dictation of those who are interested in liquor traffic and its attendant evils. That is what the Prohibition movement all over the United States means.

In the meantime, do not sign any petitions without understanding fully what you are signing. Do not trust to strangers in this matter. Be careful.

## FIGHT TO A FINISH.

The Senatorial election being over, the next big topic for the Legislature to consider is the wiping out of the saloons. From appearances the fight will be carried to an earnest finish, too.

If the committeemen, to whom are being confided the numerous and determined pleadings of the people, have decided, as one would infer from their playfulness, that the Prohibition question is all a joke, they have judged erroneously beforehand.

Even the good-natured but sagacious Chairman Kuchler is liable to take a turn when he discovers, as he no doubt will, that the prohibition movement in Utah is not an erratic storm; but that it is rather a regular, steady, reliable east wind, not unfamiliar in his home town, and which never was known to quiet down until things that stood in the way were either demolished or very badly shaken.

Certain politicians will learn also that this disturbance is not a tempest destined to beat in vain against the rocks of established conditions. Slurring remarks about people with a grievance, pulpits, and petticoats, will not turn away his righteous fury. Of course, the preacher, the wife and mother, and others who suffer from the curse of alcohol are behind the movement. It is just such power as that which gives impetus to the storm. In Utah this undercurrent of sympathy is very strong, because it has its source in divine injunction, strengthened by life-time training, and reinforced by the best method and workmanhood of the state. This sentiment will stand behind the prohibition law and make its enforcement a complete success. Hence in the hearts of the people, there is a deep and earnest determination to win in this fight.

The politicians will do well, therefore, to get in line. In heart most of the leaders are already in line, and just as soon as they become convinced that the people are really in earnest, they will get to the front in a hurry, for that is the fashion of their kind. They will climb to the front seat of the water wagon to be seen; notwithstanding the saloon keeper, as the procession passes by, may sling out his sarcastic remarks about "gratitude."

Behold even now in other states, congressmen, governors, mayors, judges, district attorneys, sheriffs, and chiefs of police on the front seat. It takes more political courage today to deny sympathy for prohibition than to favor it. That is true in many of the states and not least in Utah. The stand of the politician who opposes prohibition is not well taken.

The conservative business man has expressed some fear that prohibition may hurt business. One local Summit county paper declares, as a clinching argument against prohibition, that before the city is made "dry," the council must raise money to pay the current expenses of the town. The citizens must drink to pay their taxes! They must barter the character and sobriety of their sons and daughters for taxes! God forbid that any community should thus decide.

Obdurate was once asked, "What will you do for revenue if you reduce your income from liquor traffic?" He replied, "You give me an industrious people who are not wasting their money for drink, and I'll raise the revenue." He was right. Prosperity is not due to the saloon; it does not follow the jug. On the other hand it has been proved that trade and money in a "dry" town is better, more substantial, and more reliable than in a "wet" one. To say nothing of the decency and the morals of the community. Every dollar spent for whisky is so much withheld

drawn from the business man's revenue.

The best business and manufacturing houses in the land, not to mention railroads and other great corporations, insist upon their employees being absolutely sober. Men are not employed who drink. Almost all labor employers are in favor of closing the saloons, for the cost and loss to them from drink by their employees is enormous.

There are strong financial reasons for closing the saloons; there are vital business reasons. There are a thousand convincing political reasons; and the moral reasons for prohibition are innumerable.

## NO COMMISSION.

The House Committee on Appropriations, it is reported, is going to propose to Congress that the immigration commission established in the spring of 1907, be abolished. Its special mission was to make an exhaustive study of the immigration question at home and abroad. But it is now intimated that the commission has not been of any legislative usefulness, and the appropriation ought to be cut off.

Commissioners, very often, are more expensive than useful. They are rather luxuries than necessities of life to the commonwealth, and legislators would do well to remember that when commission questions come up for consideration. This immigration commission was organized two years ago, and somehow it soon found it necessary to accumulate a large staff of clerks, inspectors, assistants, book-keepers and accountants, with the like \$300,000 a year. Most of the members of the commission are members of either the Senate or the House, who draw no additional pay except for traveling expenses, but the expenses have been increasing anyhow. Members of the commission have visited different parts of Europe and have made a study of the countries from which most of our foreign workmen come, and have gone into the cost of living, customs and habits of the people, and a mass of sociological data concerning the folks who may or may not become future citizens of this Republic.

The immigration problem is likely to take care of itself without the aid of an expensive commission. When times are good foreigners flock to this country in large numbers; when a panic comes, they return to the Old Countries.

Mumps is very apt to make one cheeky.

The police seem determined to stock the stockade.

There is a tendency to overstock the State with commissions.

Why should a congressman make of the employment of the secret service an overshadowing issue?

Doing nothing gracefully is as hard as growing old gracefully.

Senator Rayner was facetious; Representative Willett was ferocious.

The gun clubs may yet undertake to control the shooting of the chutes.

California fears an inundation of Japanese far more than she does any flood.

The charity that begins at home dwells in the same family with selfishness.

What position will Harvard now take towards the theory of canals on Mars?

The cause of intemperance is not far to seek. It is whiskey. The cure is prohibition.

If electric hen can hatch chickens is there any good reason why it should not lay eggs?

It is better to be the victim of misplaced confidence than of a misplaced switch.

"We are fighting against privilege," says President Roosevelt, which in itself is a privilege.

That message to Gompers—"Stay in the game"—may become as famous as the message to Garcia.

J. Pierpont Morgan has bought the sword of General George Washington. He will wear it as a captain of industry.

The amount of damages a widow asks for the death of her husband is no criterion of her love and regard for him.

Why can't the Brownsville affair be merged with the Annamajan heirs claims? It seems that neither will ever be forgotten.

The organ of the Pseudo-American party can no more let the dead past bury its dead and act in the living present than it can fly.

"Stand pat," "stay in the game," "beaten to a frazzle," are good and useful phrases, but "Don't give up the ship," beats all of them put together.

"I know there never has been such a thing as a white rhinoceros," says Senator Rayner. It may be, but there certainly have been "white elephants."

Addressing the Sons of the American Revolution, Francis W. Parker said the United States is too big to be loved. Too big? Big things are exactly the things that Americans do love.

"I wish to go down in the lanes of life's laughter," sings a Baltimore poet. We don't know what kind of lanes they are, but let this poet go down in them and never return.

George Bernard Shaw, dramatist and author, was unable to deliver a lecture before the Fabian society of London. The eternal fitness of things was never better exemplified than that a lecture before the Fabian society should be delayed.

## EDGAR ALLAN POE

Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
Just a century ago that child of fiery genius, Edgar Allan Poe, came into a world that gave him scant welcome, that scorned his efforts rather than his merits, that chilled his ambition, and that never makes any recognition of his right to stand in the forefront of the men of letters of his native land. Today a half dozen citizens are to hold appropriate celebrations of the Poe centennial, at which his memory is to be fittingly honored. The press throughout the country will echo the words of praise that are showered upon him, and the masterpieces of his pen will find countless readers, young and old, to whom they may hitherto have been unknown.

In the course of time the much magnified, exaggerated, and distorted portrait of the poet have been smoothed away, or flatly contradicted. We know that he was a genius, erratic, restless, and impatient of restraint. He was too great a genius for any other human frailty to obstruct his right to fame. And now, after many years, he is coming into his own.

## TRIED IN HIS OWN COURT.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
The other day a New Jersey Justice was called upon to preside in a case where the plaintiff sought to recover damages from a fellow-citizen whom he charged with overruling and causing the death of a valuable horse. The defendant's attorney, when the case was called, arose and charged the Justice with being prejudiced in the plaintiff's favor and consequently unfit to preside. The Justice declined to admit his prejudices, and then called to his assistant an old New Jersey statute. Looking over the statute in the court room he detected three offenses of local repute and appointed them triers. Then he detailed to them the fact that he had been charged with prejudice and asked them to make an exhaustive examination into the evidence, and announce their finding. The three thereupon assumed charge, and evidence. The Justice, who appeared as a witness in his own behalf, and the defendant's attorney directed the attack against him. In due time the triers stated that they were ready to render their verdict, and that there was no tangible proof that the Justice was in any way unfitted to sit in the case. The trial then proceeded, the Justice finally giving the plaintiff the full amount of his claim.

## JUST FOR FUN.

"I notice one harbinger of the new year," "What's that?" "The 1909 models in automobile jokes are out!"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Pa," "Well, what now?" "What's astaten?" "Astaten is why a descendant of an old family robs a bank."—Cleveland Leader.

Customer—My hair is falling out. Can you give me something to keep it in? New Clerk (who wants to be obliging)—You might take this cigar box. Women often keep theirs in such boxes.—Judge.

"Goodness me! You don't say!" "It's true as Gospel. I heard it from Mrs. Jones, and her cook's fellow lives right next door to their washwomen, so, you see, I get it direct."—Brownings Magazine.

First Shopgirl—Miss Blank is going away. The second shopgirl—Who she leaving for good? First Shopgirl—No; for better or worse.—Brooklyn Life.

"Who is that singing so dreadfully out of tune?" "It is my wife." "Perhaps the accompanist plays out of tune." "She is accompanying herself."—Megendorfer Blaetter.

Madge—Miss Avoidupolis is taking horseback riding. Has she got off any fat? Dolly—Yes, off the horse.—Lippincott's.

Pearl—In the first chapter of this novel it states that the heroine has hazel eyes; in another it alludes to her liquid eyes. Ruby—Liquid? Well—perhaps she has witch hazel eyes.—Chicago News.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In the February number of Popular Mechanics an article on "Rebuilding the Human Face," is of peculiar interest. Oftentimes a complete transformation of the facial topography is involved, and the treatment covers months and years, with what results several illustrations strikingly depict. A thrilling account of the bombardment of Los Angeles at night by an airship is accompanied by a no less thrilling illustration. Confetti bombs were used, but they demonstrated effectually the part aerial craft will take in future warfare. Roy Knabenshue was the aeronaut. The harnessing of artesian wells to supply power for industrial purposes is another important feature. In the South, especially in Georgia, a great many artesian wells are put to such use, and every year sees their number increased. An article on culinary utensils describes a number of ingenious devices which simplify the housewife's labors. The effects of electric burns are realistically shown in a number of illustrations and their treatment is discussed. Views and plans for a comfortable and artistic house, costing but \$5,500 are a noteworthy feature. In marine lines a new submarine rescuing vessel is described with illustration; also the salvage of the British cruiser "Colclator," sunk some time since by the American liner "St. Paul"; the interior of a French battleship; the new U. S. battleship "North Dakota"; German navy rescue ladder; the new U. S. Navy collars; transportation of U. S. submarines, etc.—Chicago.

People have wondered when John D. Rockefeller would tell in his Reminiscences something about the plans he evolved in his youth which brought his great fortune to him. It is interesting to hear after writing so much about "The Difficult Art of Giving," he will devote the next article in his series in "The World's Work" to "The Difficult Art of Getting." It seems he never set out to be a rich man, but he did business in an efficient way. How he got these ideas of business principle and training he tells, with some details, in the February World's Work. His account includes the story of his going into business when he was eighteen years old and with his partner, Mr. Clark, raising a sum of \$500,000 worth of farm produce in his first year of trading.—Doubleday, Page & Co.

Like a Pinero play is "Lady Muck-Affraid," by Jack Thompson, the novellette in February Young's Magazine. Modern matrimony is portrayed in Helen Micks Bowen's "The Tie That Binds." A bizarre, realistic yarn in "Kelly's Little Joker" by H. Forest, with a very thread of fantastic humor. A bit of bubbling, chuckling humor is "By Lamplight" by Jeanette Schults. "Her Letters" by Hjord Valdemir, is a story that jumps into the heart of a tragic tangle in the first paragraph and leads you in a whirl of interest and excitement to a grim but inevitable denouement. Not of the rosewater type of fiction is Forrest Halsey's "Of Them That Hate Me." It is a strong bit of short fiction. In Young's is found always the cream of continental fiction. In the February number are "The Golden Secret," by Jessie Bligh, "A Continental Journey," by Andre Theuriet; "A Sphinx and Her Lover," by J. H. Rosny, and "The Rascal," by Pierre Mille.—114-116 East, 25th St., New York.

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